

# Knightdale Parks and Recreation

## 7-8 Coach Pitch League Rules

### 1.0 Purpose

The purpose of the league is to establish a program organized and administered by professionals, and conducted by volunteers, that will provide area youth with a wholesome opportunity for personal satisfaction and enjoyment through the development of basic physical skills. Through the discipline of organized sports, participants will be introduced to the positive values of team play and sportsmanship within an atmosphere that is safe and fun.

### 2.0 League Management

2.1 Governing authority for the league shall be vested in the *Knightdale Parks and Recreation Department* and the Parks & Rec Board

2.2 The *Program Director* shall appoint all committees/boards deemed necessary for the efficient operation of the league.

2.2.1 The *Parks & Recreation Department* shall accept applications for positions on the Parks & Rec Board beginning in January of each year; appointments are for a period of one (1) season and may be extended with the approval of the *Program Director*.

2.2.2 The Parks & Rec Board consist of the *Program Director* and five (5) citizen members with experience or an interest in youth athletics; those currently serving on the *Parks & Rec Board* or volunteering as coaches in the baseball/softball league are eligible to serve on the *Parks & Rec Board*

2.2.3 The *Committee* shall review coaches' applications, approve rules, hear protests, etc.

2.3 The *Program Director* shall determine all game times and field locations; **no** schedule changes will be made without the express written consent of the *Program Director*.

### 3.0 Volunteer Coaches

3.1 No team shall have more than three (4) coaches; one (1) Head Coach and two (2) Assistant Coaches and a bench monitor/line up keeper.

3.1.1 Each team will try to be supplied at least 1 assistant coach and may recruit more from your roster.

3.2 All persons interested in coaching must submit a formal application prior to the start of the season; applications are subject to approval by the *Knightdale Parks & Recreation Department* and clearance by the *Knightdale Police Department*.

3.3 Coaches are required to maintain the highest standard of conduct: to provide, through their example of fair play and sportsmanship, a positive influence on the youth with whom they are associated.

3.4 All coaches must understand and agree to carry out the duties, responsibilities, and policies, established by the *Knightdale Parks and Recreation Department*. Any coach not carrying out these duties and responsibilities will be subject to dismissal by the *Department*. These duties include, but are not limited to adhering to the *Coaches Code of Ethics Pledge*.

3.5 The *Program Director* reserves the right to remove any coach he feels is detrimental to the players or the program. Expelled coaches have the right to appeal to the Parks & Rec Board. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the *Program Director* within 72 hours of removal.

3.6 The Head Coach is required to hold a pre-season parents meeting to discuss rules, conduct, responsibilities,

3.7 Only the Head, Assistant coaches and the monitor will be allowed to sit on the bench (be in the dug-out) during the playing of an official game

3.8 Only the Head Coach, or, in his absence, the officially designated Assistant Coach, may leave the bench for the purpose of discussion with the Umpire.

3.9 The use of tobacco products in and around the dug-out or on the playing field is prohibited.

#### 4.0 Player Eligibility

4.1 League age divisions are as follows:

5 & 6 year old	T-Ball
7 & 8 year old	Coach Pitch
9 & 10 year old	Minors
11 & 12 year old	Majors
13 & 14 year old	Junior League
15 - 17 year old	Senior League
9 & 10 year old	Girl's Softball
11 & 12 year old	Girl's Softball
13 - 15 year old	Girl's Softball
16 - 18 year old	Girl's Softball

4.2 A players age for league purposes is **age as of May 1 of the current year.**

4.3 In exceptional cases, a player may play in a higher age division with the approval of the parents and the *Program Director*. Children may not "play down" at a lower level.

4.4 To be eligible to attend practices and games, a player must meet all eligibility requirements (completed registration, birth certificate and fees are on file).

#### 5.0 Skills Evaluations and Draft

5.1 No skills evaluations will be held in the Coach Pitch League.

5.2 All registered players will be placed on teams by the *Program Director*.  
To be eligible to play in the league, players must meet age requirements: age for league purposes (league age) is age as of **May 1 of the current year.**

5.4 Team rosters become official at the start of league play, regardless of whether a team plays on opening day. The target number per team is 12 players.

5.4.1 No additions will be made to the roster after the season begins without approval from the Program Director.

5.4.2 Players placed on a team during the season must meet all eligibility requirements and be officially added to the roster by the *Program Director*. Players will be placed according to their position on the waiting list.

#### 6.0 Uniforms

6.1 All uniform shirts, hats and team equipment shall be purchased by the *Knightdale Parks and Recreation Department*. Teams deviating from the official uniform are subject to forfeiture of the game.

#### 7.0 Equipment

7.1 The bat shall be round and made of aluminum and marked "official". The diameter of the barrel shall be no larger than 2-1/4 inches.

7.2 An official baseball will be used.

7.3 Tennis shoes or shoes with molded cleats are approved for use. Metal spikes and metal toe plates are prohibited in all age divisions.

7.4 A batting helmet must be worn by all batters while running bases and until they are inside the dugout.

Note: The protective helmet is worn for the safety of the participant. An "out" will be called when a runner deliberately removes his helmet; the put-out is credited to the fielder nearest the ball at the time.

Note: Beginning in 2010 all participants must provide their own batting helmets

7.5 Catchers must wear mask, chest protector, shin-guards, cup and throat guard.

7.6 Defensive players must wear a glove while in the field.

## 8.0 Playing Rules

### 8.1 **Mandatory Play Rule:**

8.1.1 The mandatory play rule shall be in effect during all league play.

8.1.2 Every player **must play** on defense. A maximum of six (6) players, including the catcher, may be in the infield on defense at any one time.

8.1.3 2 coaches may be on the field during their teams defensive play. Coaches should be on the grass behind the infield.

8.1.4 **A coach will pitch to his team overhand and standing.** Staff will also act as the official. There will be no disputed calls, what ever the official says goes.

8.1.5 1 coach may assist a batter at the plate.

8.1.6 Players who fail to attend practices, are disrespectful to coaches or other players, or exhibit other behavior problems, will not be guaranteed the minimum amount of playing time. Coaches must immediately report such problems to the *Program Director*.

### 8.2 **Length of Game:**

8.2.1 Games shall be one (1) hour and or six (6) innings: if an inning starts prior to expiration of the time limit, the inning will be completed but no new inning will start after the time limit expires.

8.2.2 If a game has to be called before completion of four (4) innings or the time limit due to weather conditions, the game will be ruled complete.

8.2.3 **No score or standings will be recorded for the Coach Pitch League.**

### 8.3 **Innings:**

8.3.1 An inning will consist of one of the following:  
**A 5 runs**  
**B. three (3) outs;**  
**C. batting through the entire line-up.**

### 8.4 **Batting Order:**

8.4.1 **All** players shall be listed on the batting order.

8.4.2 Late players must be added to the end of the line-up.

## 8.5 Pitching:

- 8.5.1 A coach from the offensive team will pitch overhand and standing.
- 8.5.2 If a batted ball hits the adult pitcher or the umpire, the ball will be ruled dead and the batter/runner will advance to first base. All other runners will advance one base **only if forced**.
- 8.5.3 A player/pitcher will be on the mound beside the adult pitcher with at least one foot inside the circle, and will field all balls that a pitcher would normally field.
- 8.5.4 Once a ball is hit and placed into play the adult pitcher must make every effort to stay out of the way of the ongoing play and all base runners. If an adult pitcher interferes (is hit by the ball) the batter will be called out. The base runners will return to their original base.

## 8.6 Batting:

- 8.6.1 Each batter will receive a maximum of six (6) pitches.
- 8.6.2 The umpire will not call balls or strikes.
- 8.6.3 No infield fly rule.
- 8.6.4 Batters may not advance on a bunt or if hit by a pitch.
- 8.6.5 A batter who throws the bat will be issued warnings during the first week of the season. Any batter throwing the bat after this period will be automatically called out.
- 8.6.6 Batting line-ups must be kept in order: any batter who bats out of order will be out and all base runners will be brought back. This must be appealed by the opposing coach before the next batter is pitched to.

## 8.7 Base Running:

- 8.7.1 Any runner is out when he/she runs more than three (3) feet out of the baseline to avoid being tagged **unless** such action is taken to avoid interference with a player fielding a batted ball. Intentional interference shall result in the player being called out.
- 8.7.2 A base runner who passes another runner is out.
- 8.7.3 A base runner may advance only one (1) base on an overthrown ball to the first base side.
- 8.7.4 A base runner may advance at his own discretion on an overthrow that remains in fair territory.
- 8.7.5 Base stealing is not permitted. A base runner must be in contact with the base at the time the ball is hit by the batter.
- 8.7.6 Tagging up on a caught fly ball is required before the runner may attempt to advance.
- 8.7.7 When in the judgment of the umpire, the base coach at first or third touches or holds the runner (pushing the player towards the next base or pulling him back to tag-up), it shall be ruled interference and the runner shall be called out.
- 8.7.8 Play stops by getting the runner out, or containing (halting) the lead runner or the umpire calling time.
- 8.7.9 Appropriate sliding is legal, players should avoid malicious contact.
- 8.7.10 If the catcher is on base with two outs the player who made the last out must be used as the pinch runner to speed up the game.

## **8.8 Playing Field:**

- 8.8.1 Bases shall be set at sixty (60) feet.
- 8.8.2 The pitching rubber shall be set at 40' from the back point of home plate. The player playing the pitcher's position must stand with at least 1 foot inside the 12 foot circle.
- 8.8.3 Foul, strike, fair ball arc shall be made on a ten (10) foot radius from the back point of home plate.

## **8.9 Rule Changes:**

- 8.9.1 Proposed rule changes should be submitted in writing to the *Program Director* for their review.
- 8.9.2 Rule changes must be approved by the *Baseball Sports Advisory Committee* and *Program Director* prior to the start of the season.
- 8.9.3 Mid-season rule changes will only be considered if the current situation poses a threat to the health, safety or well being of participants.

## **9.0 Forfeiture and Protests**

9.1 There shall be a fifteen (15) minute grace period for the first game only; all other games, **game time is forfeit time. The 15 minutes will be taken off the end of the time limit.**

- 9.1.1 Scheduled game time will be delayed only if the preceding game is still in progress.
- 9.1.2 Starting time may precede regular scheduled game time if mutually agreed upon by both coaches and the umpire.
- 9.2 A team failing to or unable to continuously field at least eight (8) eligible players shall forfeit the game.
- 9.3 If a coach believes that there has been a violation of the playing rules, he shall appeal to the umpire at the time of the play (before the next pitch).

9.4 If a forfeit is called both teams may use the remainder of their game time to scrimmage.

## **10.0 Official Scorekeeper KPRD will have staff to be the official book.**

10.1 The home team shall be designated as the official line-up keeper and must note the start time of the game in the book and communicate this to the umpire.

## **11.0 Field Supervisor**

- 11.1 The *Parks & Recreation Department* shall assign a Field Supervisor to the athletic complexes utilized for league play.
- 11.2 The Field Supervisor shall wear a *Knightdale Parks & Recreation Department* staff shirt while working; he shall identify himself to each coach and official prior to the start of play.
- 11.3 The Field Supervisor shall be responsible for furnishing game balls.
- 11.4 The Field Supervisor is responsible for filling out accident reports on all injuries suffered at the facility.
- 11.5 After each game, the Field Supervisor will prepare a game information form and list of field needs to turn in to the *Program Director*. Any safety hazards or emergency repairs should be reported immediately.

11.6 The Field Supervisor shall turn on lights when needed at the top of the inning; lights should never be turned on when there is sufficient natural lighting.

11.6.1 The Field Supervisor shall be responsible for turning off all lights following games and securing the facility.

11.7 The Field Supervisor is responsible for enforcing all regulations of the *Knightdale Parks & Recreation Department* and *Wake County Schools*.

11.7.1 The Field Supervisor shall enforce the ban on the use of tobacco products on the playing field and in the dug-out.

## 12.0 Facility Regulations

12.1 Use of fields for practices and games must be scheduled through the *Program Director*.

12.2 For all games played on lighted fields, there shall be a **10:00 p.m. curfew**; no new inning may start after curfew. In the event that a game is suspended, it will be rescheduled at the discretion of the *Program Director*.

12.3 Parking regulations will be enforced by the *Knightdale Police Department* for the safety and well being of participants and area residents.

12.3.1 Additional parking is available at the lower field and bus parking lot; please do not park in the driveway or posted areas as this limits access for emergency vehicles, should they be needed.

## 13.0 Post-Season Play

13.1 There is **no post-season tournament** in the Instructional League

## 14.0 All-Stars

14.1 An **All-star team** will be selected or sanctioned in the Coach Pitch League.

## 15.0 Awards

15.1 All children who have registered for the Instructional league will receive awards for their participation.

15.2 The *Program Director* will select all awards to include: trophies, medals and patches distributed by the *Department*.

## 16.0 Code of Conduct

The Town of Knightdale Parks & Recreation Department requires officials to enforce all rules regarding unsportsmanlike conduct by players, coaches and spectators. Specifically, trash talking, taunting, baiting, demeaning celebration, and vulgar and profane gestures and/or language may be penalized without warning. Fighting or other malicious conduct will result in an ejection. If any coach protests a penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct, he or she is subject to being ejected from the contest. It is strongly suggested that you remind your teammates, parents, spectators, and coaches of this policy. An ejection from the game is an ejection from the playing site and other ejection penalties will apply.

### **Principles of Fair Play**

1. **Respect the rules.**
2. **Respect the officials and their decisions.**
3. **Respect your opponent.**
4. **Give everyone an equal chance to participate.**
5. **Maintain your self-control at all times.**

16.1 No coach, player or spectator shall refuse to abide by an Official's or Field Supervisor's decision.

16.2 No coach, player or spectator shall be guilty of objectionable demonstrations of dissent at an Official's decision.

16.3 No player, other than the team captain, shall discuss with an Official in any manner the decision reached by the Official.

16.4 No player shall be guilty of using unnecessary rough tactics in the play of the game.

**Penalty:** For the unsportsmanlike acts enumerated in items 16.1 through 16.4, the coach or player shall be ejected from the game and must immediately leave the area.

**\*Note: Removal from the game is an automatic suspension from the next game that the team plays. A suspension from the game is also a suspension from the playing site.**

16.5 No coach, player or spectator shall be guilty of personal verbal abuse upon an umpire or league official for any real or imaginary wrong decision or judgment.

16.6 No coach, player or spectator shall at any time lay a hand on, push, shove, strike, or threaten to strike another coach, player, spectator, umpire or league official.

16.7 No coach, player or spectator shall be guilty of any physical attack as an aggressor upon any player, coach, spectator, umpire or league official.

**Penalty:** For violation of rules 16.5 through 16.7, the coach, player or spectator shall be automatically suspended for the remainder of the season. If the circumstances so warrant, the suspension may include all competitive programs offered by the *Knightdale Parks & Recreation Department*.

**\*Note:** A suspension from the game is also a suspension from the playing site.

16.7.1 Seasonal suspension may be appealed to the *Sports Review Committee*.

16.8 Unruly, arrogant and/or obscene spectators will be dealt with by the team coaches immediately or the team that has the support of those spectators will forfeit the game. In the case of unruly spectators, the Umpire shall call time and give the coaches two (2) minutes to remove the offensive party from the premises. If they are unable to control the situation, the game will be called a forfeit.

If a suspended individual is present at the playing site, the Field Supervisor and/or umpire have the authority to request that the individual leave the premises. It is the responsibility of the team coaches to remove the individual within two (2) minutes of being notified of the unauthorized person's attendance or forfeit the game being played at that time.

Adopted: January, 1994  
Revised: March, 2015